1	2	3	4
Western Coalfields Ltd.	10.602	9.916	-0.686
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	20.918	20.576	-0.342
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	19.890	18.479	-1.411
North Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	0.360	0.235	-0.125
Total:–Coal India Ltd.	86.591	80.571	-6.020

(c) Yes Sir. There is shortfall of 6.020 Mts. The reasons for shortfall in coal production are unprecedented heavy rainfall in ECL, CCL and WCL, Breakdown of machineries in BCCL and MCL, Major maintenance/overhauling of HEMM at CCL, Power failure in ECL, BCCL and CCL, Transportation/Economic blockage at CCL, Frequent disturbances by villagers (IR problem) in MCL and less exposure of coal due non- finalisation of OB removal contract in SECL.

(d) Production shortfall during first quarter of 2007-08 was reviewed subsidiary-wise and it was decided to mobilize all resources so that the shortfall is made good during second and third quarter of current financial year.

Signing of Pact between MCL and NALCO

†1218. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa based Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) has signed any pact to give coal to nearby National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has become a practice to give coal to companies of distant States instead of Power plants of other industries situated in those States, where subsidiary companies of Coal India are situated; and

(d) if not, the factual position obtaining in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) A Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) was concluded between Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) on 15th April, 2002, which was valid for a period of five years. The validity of this FSA has expired. However, coal supplies from MCL to NALCO are continuing on the basis of coal allocation made by Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term). Details of allocation of coal *vis-a-vis* despatch of coal to Captive Power Plants of NALCO at Angul are given below:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(figures in '000 tonnes)

Period	Allocation	Supply	Materialization
April-June, 2007	1179.12	1193.47	101.21%
July, 2007	393.04	353.80	90.02%
April-July, 2007	1572.15	1547.27	98.41%

(c) and (d) Coal is a natural resource and occurs in some States only. It is prudent that this resource is shared by consumers in all the States. Thus, coal is equitably allocated to consumers located anywhere in the Indian Union, on the basis of priority, through the mechanism of an Inter-Ministerial Committee called the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term).

Extension of broadband coverage to schools

1219. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed an Inter-Ministerial Group comprising of various Ministries such as Health, Home, Human Resource Development, Panchayati Raj and IT to discuss for planning the rollout of broadband infrastructure and indicate their requirement in rural areas with support ftom the Universal Services Obligation Fund;

(b) whether Government have set up a target of adding 6.5 million broadband subscribers in 2007, of which 4.5 million are expected to be provided by BSNL; and

(c) whether Government are also planning to extend broadband coverage to all secondary and higher secondary schools by 2007 and public healthcare centres by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Broadband Policy envisages a target of 9 million broadband connections by 2007. BSNL is expected to contribute for this in a significant manner.

(c) Government has planned to provide broadband connectivity to all secondary and higher secondary schools and public healthcare centers progressively by 2008.

Closure of post offices

1220. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post offices have been closed in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;